

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

AGENDA 1/12/2023

Item 3-A Written Communication
Public Comment regarding Tennis Courts

From: [Kristin Fairfield](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] On Behalf of the ATC-Funding for Tennis courts
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:36:17 PM

Greetings, Director Wooldridge and Parks Commissioners Tara Navarro, Adrienne Alexander, Philly Jones, Alice Nguyen, and Eric Robbins,

I'm writing to you all on behalf of the Alameda Tennis Coalition (ATC). I spoke at the meeting in December to bring to your attention our need for more tennis courts for youth/educational tennis programs, casual tennis play, and competitive USTA tennis.

The Alameda High tennis courts were mentioned, but they are used mainly by the AHS tennis programs and by Laney Tennis Association (Henry Chang). LTA can only use them on Sundays for their USTA matches/practices. LTA has several teams, and they are not an option for more tennis play by other USTA teams or by casual players/youth educational tennis. There is no public bathroom, and the gates can not remain unlocked due to possible vandalism. There are also no lights. Partnering with existing facilities is a good idea. Alameda College would be our first choice. Our second choice would be to build brand new courts at Alameda Point.

Washington Park is our best facility for all tennis and the only facility that can be home to the USTA teams. Currently, we are at maximum team capacity (8 teams). The other courts (Krusi/Leydecker) can not support USTA teams due to the limit on court rentals -only two at a time.

Tennis experienced a covid boom, and more than 22 million Americans played the sport last year — 4.7 times more than pickleball and up 28 percent from two years earlier, according to SFIA data. Sept 2022.

The WAPA tennis courts were recently updated but will require more maintenance and further improvements. This is why we'd like to request funding for more public tennis courts in the next city budget. We will also need more funding to continue to maintain all existing courts.

Thank you for considering our request.

Kristin Fairfield
On Behalf of the Alameda Tennis Coalition

From: frankrolek@gmail.com
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wapo tennis courts
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 11:35:20 AM

Hi Amy

I would like to request more funding for future, tennis courts and maintenance of the current tennis courts at Wapo. I've had double partial knee replacements, and it has allowed me play tennis again after not playing for over 20 yrs.

Playing tennis has improved the quality of my life tenfold. We need additional courts because there are so many new people entering the sport because it's so much fun to play. Whatever you can do to help us create more tennis courts and maintain the courts at WAPO would be so grateful appreciation by so many of us.

Sincerely

Frank Rolek
USTA Competitor

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jason Yang](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please: funding for more tennis courts AND court maintenance
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 9:08:35 PM

Hello Director Wooldridge,

I am writing to express my support for more funding to increase the # of tennis courts in Alameda and also for more funding to maintain the existing courts.

I greatly appreciate the recent resurfacing of the Washington Park courts and would love for similar efforts to continue.

Thank you so much for all that you do for Alameda.

Jason Yang

Alameda resident of 20 years

From: [KWOK YIN CHAN](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Appeal To ARPD - More Tennis Courts and Better Tennis Courts in the City of Alameda
Date: Saturday, December 31, 2022 11:57:48 AM

Dear Ms Wooldridge,

I am a resident of the City of Alameda and a keen tennis player. Since my retirement and after some COVID restrictions were lifted in 2020, I have met many wonderful people playing tennis in Washington Park and Franklin Park. I am so glad to get to know many fellow residents and likeminded players. We have so much fun inside and outside of the courts. Most importantly, we have found a strong sense of community and camaraderie. On the other hand, I have improved my health and physical ability due to regularly playing tennis.

Since tennis has become so popular, me and my friends sometimes have to wait for open courts for up to an hour, especially during the mornings of weekdays and weekends, and mid afternoon during summer. We also want to stand longer than the recommended one-hour limit.

Occasionally I also play in SF Golden Gate Park, San Leandro, Castro Valley and Berkeley, and cannot help but admire the nice condition of those courts and the parks. The benches, benches, tables and also bathroom facilities compare favorably to those of Alameda's. Players there treat their tennis courts as centers of their communities.

I would like ARPD to allocate more funds and pay more attention to support the sports of tennis.

Best regards,
Kwok Yin Chan
Resident at Oceana Street

From: [tony lam](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request Funding for more tennis courts
Date: Thursday, January 5, 2023 8:38:25 AM

Hi Amy,

I am supporting to request funding for more tennis courts in Alameda. I have been playing tennis in Alameda for 20 years. Wapa park was very busy almost everyday. The waiting time was for than 45 minutes. Sometimes my kids can't wait for it then we have to cancel tennis practice.

Tony Lam

From: [Tony Xiong](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Funding more for tennis courts
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 8:29:20 AM

My name is tony. I play tennis. Tennis is a big community for alameda
Thanks
Tony

From: [charlie dewett](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: HELP WITH NEW TENNIS COURTS- FRI JAN 6TH/ THURS JAN 12
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 9:17:49 PM

Hello Director Wooldridge and Parks Commissioners Tara Navarro, Adrienne Alexander, Philly Jones, Alice Nguyen, and Eric Robbins.

My name is Charlie Dewett. I'm an alameda home owner of 22 years. I've been part of WaPa USTA tennis teams for 15 of those years. I truly want to thank you for all the attention you've given to tennis in the last couple years. I've never seen tennis explode like it has here on the island! With the resurfacing our courts are busier than ever! Today, after days of rain, we had dry courts. The courts were packed all day! On a Friday!

I directed several people to surrounding courts and many of them said they had already tried those locations and were full.

It's clear to the tennis community that we are in urgent need of more courts here in Alameda.

I understand some of the challenges you all face in making this a reality for the greater tennis community.

I've been saying for years how great it would be to have the College of Alameda courts open to the public. Our taxes paid for those courts why are they just rotting out there?! I've heard that from so many.

If that isn't attainable, then a new sports complex out on the base would be awesome! I believe something like that is already in the works. Adding a state of the art tennis facility would bring so many people from out of the area during league play and many of those people would frequent the breweries, restaurants, and attractions around the base.

Like the huge surge in Pickleball players...there's even a greater surge in Tennis players!

Please, we're asking for your help, we're asking to truly be heard. Our tennis community is thriving! Like never before!

I'm asking for a commitment from each of you to do everything you can to help. For many of us...this is our sanctuary. A family away from our family-Our WaPa family.

Any and all consideration is greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year!

Best Regards,

Charlie Dewett
WaPa Captain 5.0/4.5/9.5/9.0M
510-541-0510

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Drew](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Funding for more tennis courts in Alameda - please forward to the parks division
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 6:10:11 PM

Hi Amy,

I'd first like to say thank you and those responsible for the resurfacing and new lights at Washington park. It makes the experience of playing and hosting other teams and players there so much safer and more enjoyable.

I'm writing this to request additional funding for additional tennis courts in Alameda and continued maintenance of Washington Park and the other courts in the city. I've been playing at Washington Park since 2013 and now feel a part of the family there. I've played at other courts and on other teams but have never felt this sense of community and camaraderie that exist at Washington Park. It's a special place.

Since the pandemic we have seen a marked increase in the crowding at the courts. It's such a healthy and wonderful sport for people to enjoy that it seems it would benefit the city and community to provide more spaces where people can enjoy it like myself and the rest of us do.

Thank you for your consideration and all your hard work. We really appreciate it!

Sincerely,

Drew Cribley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynne Harrington](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FUNDING FOR MORE TENNIS COURTS
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 8:10:16 PM

Hi, Amy —

My name is Lynne Harrington, and although I am an Oakland resident, I primarily play tennis in Alameda. I began playing in Alameda several years ago, as I became a member of the Harbor Bay Club (HBC). During the pandemic, HBC had very restrictive rules on playing tennis there, i.e., you could only play singles; or doubles with the same group of four players. That didn't work for me, and I ended up quitting the club.

I found out that many other HBC players also quit the club and were playing at Alameda Parks and Rec courts. I went from playing just a couple of times a week to almost every day. I have played on USTA teams for women's, combo and mixed teams run out of Washington Park for the past two years. I also take lessons from Paul Tu twice a week.

Since we've been organizing USTA out of WAPA, it has become more and more difficult to get practice courts on week nights. On many nights, there just aren't enough courts to accommodate all who want to play.

I see this as a good thing. The sport has really flourished, even more so during the pandemic. It is important to keep the momentum going and to dedicate more ARPD space to tennis courts. Tennis, like many sports, is a microcosm of society. Players who learn how to problem-solve, who learn to work out grievances amongst themselves and who learn to challenge each other to succeed become more productive members of our community. It is also an extremely social sport, with stronger players taking the time to encourage weaker players to develop and grow in their game.

I am proud of what the Alameda Tennis Coalition has achieved since its formation. I believe that it has been and will continue to be instrumental in improving the facilities and the sense of community surrounding tennis in the City of Alameda.

I encourage you to forward this e-mail to the Parks Commission.

I will definitely be attending the 1/12/2023 Zoom call.

Thanks for your attention to this issue.

—Lynne Harrington

From: [Manoj Mehta](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tennis courts in Alameda: Upkeep & new courts
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 8:31:41 PM

Hello ARPD Director,

As an avid tennis player who represents ARPD in various leagues and tournaments, I'd like to commend the ARPD on the investments you have made so far in public tennis facilities in Alameda. The courts are well maintained, provide a great environment to integrate and mingle into the Alameda community, and are routinely oversubscribed. Bravo!

This email is a request to your department and you on three fronts to grow the game of tennis in Alameda:

- 1) Please continue maintaining the existing facilities; for example, the Washington Park courts are now the jewel in the crown of East Bay tennis facilities.
- 2) Kindly consider converting the unused or barely used courts at the College of Alameda to public courts or open them up to the public.
- 3) Evaluate additional sites for new courts to support the explosive growth of tennis in Alameda. There is a vibrant tennis community here that would keep the courts busy, keep kids entertained after school, and encourage more folks to try the game and get healthy.

I appreciate your consideration. I hope you forward this email to the parks commission for future deliberations.

Warm regards,
Manoj Mehta

From: [Ken Fagel](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Requesting funding for more tennis courts and more improvements to existing courts
Date: Friday, January 6, 2023 5:11:02 PM

Hi, I'm Ken Fagel. I am a longtime Alameda resident and homeowner since 1988, I raised my kids on this island. I have played tennis at Washington Park since 1988. Both my son and my daughter learned to play tennis here. Washington Park is a huge part of our tennis community. It is the center where many leagues are played, many youth are taught and the 107 year old tourney is usually played.

There has been an increase of players at Washington Park and the other tennis facilities in Alameda since the pandemic. Since 2020, there are more league teams playing more league matches and many more ARPD lessons are being taught today. I believe this has helped the general health and well-being of our residents. Tennis has exploded in popularity since the pandemic and many more folks of all ages are playing tennis in Alameda. It really is the sport of a lifetime. I see players from 5 years old to 90+ years of age on the Alameda courts today. Our facilities are too busy, if we can't get a court at Washington Park, we try Franklin Park, then Leydecker, then Krusi Park. Our high schools on the island have tennis teams that need your support as well.

Myself and other local players appreciate all the hard work ARPD has done to improve the courts, such as improving the lighting, resurfacing courts and making tennis more accessible and agreeable to our local community. That being said, we cannot stop now. I would like to request that ARPD and the City of Alameda use available funds or obtain the necessary funding to continue to grow tennis in Alameda. Some ideas that have been mentioned are:

1. Continue to repair and update current tennis courts in the city.
2. Build some new courts either in current Alameda Parks or Alameda Point.
3. Work a deal with the College of Alameda to repair and allow use of their courts to the local community as they had done in the past.

Please forward this to the Parks Commission. Thank you for taking the time to review this email and feel free to reach out to me if I can support our community in any way.

Best regards,

Ken Fagel
ken@kenfagel.com

Amy Wooldridge

From: kartier <kartier@pacbell.net>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alameda Tennis Courts Improvements

Director of ARPD : Amy Wooldridge

This email is in regards to City of Alameda tennis courts. I have been playing tennis in the City of Alameda for over 20 years I participated in numerous USTA team and met so many wonderful recreational players that enjoy the sport of tennis. I am 73 years old and tennis has been my primary fitness outlet and a life time sport I play mainly at Washington Park. The City of Alameda has maintained the city wide tennis courts very well over the years compared to your neighboring city and that should continue. The people in the community deserves to have the recreational outlet tennis court improved in these times with the stress of covid 19 and other issues. Therefore, ARPD along with the City government should provide addition funding to maintain the existing courts and construct addition facilities for the many tennis players in the community.

Recreational activities like tennis are essential for basic Mental health and quality of life.

Thank You,

Larry P Carter

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: Jeffrey Nibler <jeffreynibler@gmail.com>
Date: January 12, 2023 at 6:16:19 AM PST
To: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tennis community and our courts

Good morning Amy,

My name is Jeff Nibler. I am an Alameda resident and local businessman. I ran a food production facility at Alameda Point since 2012. My wife and I are avid tennis players and have found a wonderful community here in Alameda.

I wanted to thank you and your team for the great work you have done in refurbishing our courts at Washington Park. I am hoping that the same magic will happen at Kruse soon, where our courts are in a rough condition.

Tennis is thriving in Alameda and it can be difficult to get on a court at any given time and nearly impossible on weekends. Tennis is our relaxation, so it is a shame to face the stress of the crowds waiting, sometimes for hours, to get on one of the beautifully redone courts at Washington Park.

I understand that an expansion of tennis facilities is being considered, and I hope it is something that the City will be able to budget. If there is anything I can do to help in those efforts please let me know.

Thanks again for all you do for Alameda.

Sincerely, Jeff

Jeffrey Nibler
3293 Briggs Ave
415-652-0197

From: Paige Ivey <lenorepaige@gmail.com>

Date: January 12, 2023 at 10:09:22 AM PST

To: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] tennis court funding needed--please forward to Parks Commission

Dear Ms. Wooldridge,

I'm writing to thank you, the Parks Commission, and the entire ARPD staff for all of the fantastic improvements that have been made to the Washington Park, Franklin and Krusi tennis courts in Alameda over these past several months, and to request that even more be done to complete those improvements, and to create additional public tennis courts on the island.

I took up tennis exactly three years ago, in large part because of the easy accessibility of great public courts on the island near where I live (between Park and High Streets) and low cost barrier to entry (I'm an educator with limited financial means). The Fairfield tennis complex and nearby public courts are home to a vibrant, diverse and welcoming community of tennis players which has had an immeasurably positive impact on my social, physical and mental well-being. And I personally know dozens of other people of all ages and backgrounds who show up at the park to play every single week, no matter what the weather, that would all say the same thing!

While the people who come from all over the East Bay to participate in our lively and loving community are obviously the key ingredient, this community wouldn't exist without the beautiful public tennis courts, facilities, and support of the ARPD. I'd love for even more people of all ages to have free access to the healthy and fun experience that is the sport of tennis, and I'd like to request that additional public funds be allocated to continue improvements on existing Alameda tennis courts, as well as to build new public courts in order to accommodate the ever-growing numbers of players that I see every week at our wonderful public parks.

For example, the new lights and resurfacing of the courts and hitting wall at Washington Park have made the courts safer and even more fun to play on, and we are all deeply appreciative of your efforts and those of your entire staff to make those improvements happen. Now, new windscreens are needed on those courts. It would also be great to have a short fence installed at Franklin Park between the two tennis courts.

But the most urgent request is to build additional public courts in Alameda. More public courts are needed in order to accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of players who inevitably come out on weekends and holidays, which leads to overcrowding and people being turned away because the wait times are too long, even when limiting play to one hour per court.

Again, thank you for all you've done to make our tennis community possible--you and your staff at ARPD have had and continue to have incredible, positive impacts on the lives of countless citizens of Alameda and the East Bay. I and all of my tennis friends are so grateful!

Please continue the good work improving and building more tennis facilities on our great little island of Alameda!

Best regards,

Paige Ivey
Pearl St., Alameda
(628) 999-1761